

Forbidden Archaeology

Overwhelming evidence shows that humanity has been on planet Earth for much, much longer than mainstream science cares or dares to admit.

Not only that, it appears some of our ancient ancestors were more than mere 'cave-dwellers'!

Edited from
A Laura Lee interview with
Michael Cremo, © 1995
Co-author of the book
Forbidden Archeology
Extracted from
Townsend Letter for Doctors
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Laura Lee (LL): Let me tell you about some of the most extraordinary finds in archaeology. A grooved metal sphere was found in South Africa dating to the Precambrian period. A shoe-print was found in Antelope Springs, Utah, dating to the Cambrian period. A metal vase was found in Dorchester, Massachusetts, dating to the Precambrian. An iron nail in a stone was found in Scotland, dating to the Devonian period. A gold thread in a stone was found in Tweed, England, and an iron pot in Wilburton, Oklahoma, dating to the Carboniferous era. What do some of these finds have to say about our early history? Well, they're not allowed to say very much because we happen to be operating under a theory of our prehistory that would rather discard such anomalies—which are defined by their being outside the model—than to try to incorporate them or study them fairly. Here to tell the story of forbidden archaeology—and the co-author of a book by the same name—is Michael Cremo. Michael, thanks for joining us.

Michael Cremo (MC): You're welcome, Laura.

LL: Tell me a bit about forbidden archaeology and why you decided to study the field, and a bit about your background as well, please.

MC: Well, I began studying forbidden archaeology in 1984. At that time I was having some discussions with my co-author, Dr Richard Thompson, about human origins in antiquity, and we had heard a few of the reports about anomalous evidence. We decided we would do a thorough research, and I was really surprised with what we found.

LL: What did you find? Just give me a general overview, and then we'll get to the details in a little bit.

MC: Well, if you look at what you see in modern textbooks you'll get an idea that humans like ourselves—*Homo sapiens*—evolved fairly recently within the past 100,000 years from more ape-like ancestors. All the evidence that's in these books supports that idea, so it looks like a pretty solid case. But when I started looking into it, I found that over the past 150 years anthropologists have really buried almost as much evidence as they've dug up, and most of that evidence that they reburied—in a sense of getting suppressed or forgotten or ignored—is evidence that goes against this idea. It's evidence that rather supports the idea that humans like ourselves have been on this planet for hundreds of millions of years. You named in the beginning a few of the more startling pieces of evidence such as that exquisite metallic vase that was blasted out of some Precambrian rock in Dorchester, Massachusetts: that would make it over *six hundred million years old*.

LL: Isn't it astounding? Six hundred million years old? Tell me, in your opinion, what would happen if all the evidence were laid out on a level playing field, if there were no discrimination, if there weren't a theory in place, and someone were to come along and say, let's look at the history of the human race on planet Earth and look at the wide range of evidence. What would they conclude?

MC: Well, the first thing you should understand is that if you do put all the relevant evidence on the table, it would require several tables, really, instead of just the small portion of the evidence that's currently being studied. So when you take all of that evidence into account, what it looks like is that you have human beings like ourselves co-existing with other sorts of beings on this planet as far back as you care to trace—hundreds of millions of years, literally.

LL: The co-existing theory isn't so far-fetched because now they think that Neanderthal and Cro-Magnon man co-existed for a hundred thousand years in our history, side by side, contemporaneously. It's the current theory. Isn't that correct?

MC: Right, and there are even scientists today such as Myra Shackley, an English anthropologist, who would say that we are still co-existing with creatures like the

Neanderthals. You have these reports in many parts of the world of various kinds of wild men, such as the Yeti or Snowman in the Himalayas, Bigfoot or Sasquatch in North America, and other such creatures in other parts of the world. So yes, I'd say this co-existence idea is quite a valid one.

LL: Well, let's give this a fair look. Let's look at the evidence. We'll start at the beginning and kind of work our way forward, because I was noticing that the farther back you go, you find very, very sophisticated finds, and as you come forward in time towards the present, there's less and less of the highly sophisticated. But you do start dating man—early man—farther and farther back than the general establishment would lead you to believe. Michael, let's detail a couple of these extraordinary finds that date back millions and millions of years before they're really supposed to, according to the theory in place. Would you like to start with a couple of examples? What I'd like to know are the circumstances of their discovery, how well-documented they are, and where they are today.

MC: Well, I'll give you one very good example from recent history. It's one of my favourites. In 1979 in Laetoli in Tanzania, a country in East Africa, Mary Leakey—who is the wife of Louis Leakey, one of the most famous anthropologists of the 20th century—found in some volcanic ash, about 3.6 million years old, some footprints—footprints of three individuals. Many footprint experts—physical anthropologists and others—looked at these prints. This is all documented in *National Geographic* magazine and various scientific journals which we cite in our book. You can look it up, chapter and verse if you like, and see the photographs of these footprints: they are absolutely indistinguishable from modern human footprints. One researcher said that if you went out on a beach today and looked at footprints in the sand, they wouldn't be any different than these footprints. Now, what I found very remarkable is that despite that, the mindset of these investigators and researchers was such that they could not draw the obvious conclusion: namely, that these footprints must have been made by creatures very much like ourselves.

LL: Well, on the one hand, they look at the evidence and use it when it supports their case, but they refuse to look at equally valid evidence when it doesn't. I mean, isn't that being a little bit hypocritical?

MC: It is. We call it a 'knowledge filter', and in one sense we're not talking about some kind of diabolical plot to deceive the public. It's rather a kind of self-deception that these people engage in. For example, with these footprints they said, "Well, they must have belonged to *Australopithecus*"—even though they know they have footbones of *Australopithecus*, an ape/manlike creature that supposedly existed three million years ago in Africa. They have footbones from this creature, but they do not match these footprints.

LL: By a lot or a small degree?

MC: By quite a bit because the footbones of the very ancient ape/manlike creatures, the australopithecines, have very long, curved toes. They have a big toe that's sort of like our thumb. If you look at a chimpanzee, look at its foot. It has a very large

mobile big toe, sort of like our thumb, for grasping branches. So these footprints that were found in Africa, and are dated at 3.6 million years, do not match those *Australopithecus* feet at all.

LL: Why do they choose *Australopithecus* to provide an explanation for them?

MC: Because they think that is the only creature existing at the time that walked on two legs, and because they ignore all this other evidence, this massive evidence that shows that human beings like ourselves were around at that time. It just does not enter into their minds to draw the obvious conclusion. You have these humanlike footprints. A human must have made them.

LL: What of the Leakeys? How did they interpret the evidence?

MC: Well, Mary Leakey wanted to say it must have been some kind of ape-man with humanlike feet that made those prints. Now, if that's the only evidence we had, you could say, well, maybe she was right, but in *Forbidden Archeology* we document many, many categories of evidence: stone tools, all kinds of artefacts, other human bones, complete human skeletons dating back to the same period. That's what makes us think they actually must have been humans that made those prints.

LL: Because it's corroborated by additional evidence...

MC: Right.

LL: Suggesting that human history has some very interesting chapters which are being ignored simply because we are encumbered by an inadequate theory, other explanations. This is an exciting story, and we'll continue with it.

MC: Well, a very interesting case is a skeleton that was also discovered in Africa, in the early part of this century, in 1913, by Dr Hans Reck who was from Berlin University in Germany, I believe. He was in what is now the area called Olduvai Gorge...

LL: Very popular for finds, isn't it?

MC: Right. It's where the Leakeys later did much of their work. In 1913 he found a completely anatomically-modern human skeleton fossilised in strata that were over one million, almost two million years old. Now that's extremely unusual because, according to modern scientific belief, you wouldn't have anatomically modern humans like ourselves until about 100,000 years ago so...

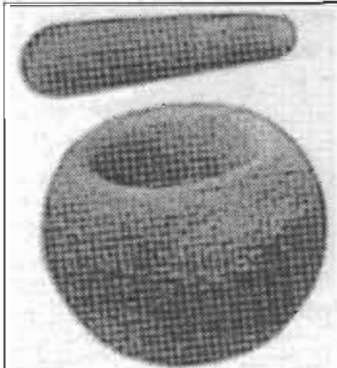
LL: How did they explain it? In 1913 wasn't archaeology just getting a feel for man? Why weren't finds like that put into the

equation?

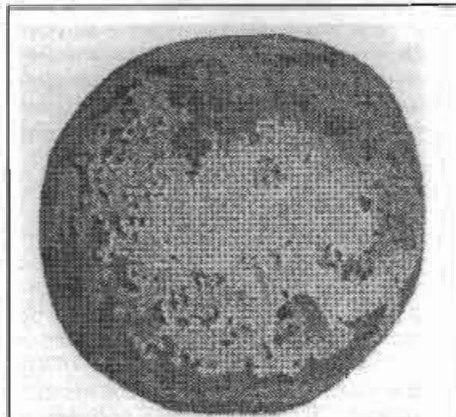
MC: Well, at that time, the modern ideas were already shaping up with the discovery of Java Man in 1894. Now this is very interesting. It gets into what you would call a detective story because I noticed Charles Darwin wrote *The Origin of Species* in 1859, and that set off intellectual shock-waves that went around the world. The question that most people were interested in was the origin of the human being.

LL: We are rather self-preoccupied, aren't we?

MC: Right. We're not so much interested in the origin of butterflies or the crab. We're interested in where we came from. So I looked at modern textbooks and I could see that from 1859, when



This mortar and pestle were found by J. H. Neale, who removed them from a mine-tunnel penetrating Tertiary deposits (33 to 55 million years old) under Table Mountain, Tuolumne County, California, USA.



This chalk ball was discovered in an Early Eocene lignite bed near Laon, France. On the basis of its stratigraphic position, it can be assigned a date of 45 to 55 million years ago.

The Origin of Species was written, until 1894, when the Java Man finds were reported, I couldn't find any reports. I thought, well, that's very mysterious. You would have thought that, almost immediately, scientists all over the world would have been looking for the missing link and finding all kinds of things. So I asked one of my research assistants to go to a library, get me some anthropology textbooks from 1880 or 1885 or so, just to have a look, and I was shocked by these books he brought in. These were by scientists, not marginal people. These were genuine scientists of the period, reporting in standard journals all kinds of evidence showing that anatomically modern humans—not ape-man, not missing links—were present 10 million years ago, 20 million years ago, 30 million years ago, 40, 50—as far back as you want to go. I'm not talking about one or two discoveries. I'm talking about hundreds, and we've got a thousand-page book, *Forbidden Archeology*, that describes them all.

LL: It's extraordinary, and I want to know where are these finds? Where do they reside today? What happened to them? With hundreds and hundreds of finds of anatomically-modern human skeletons that date back a hundred million years and beyond, what's the earliest, earliest that you could find documentation for?

MC: Well, the earliest find that we have on record is—of course, now we're talking about not just human skeletons only but human artefacts of all kinds...

LL: Right.

MC: Things that are obviously made by humans. The earliest artefact we have is a grooved metallic sphere which was discovered in South Africa. Many of these metallic spheres were discovered—perfectly round, metallic objects, some of them with three grooves around their equator—and they date back 2.8 billion years...

LL: Two-point-eight billion with a 'b'?

MC: Yes. And the Earth is said to be about 5.3 billion years old according to current scientific estimate, so these are quite old. Now, the oldest human sign that we have is a footprint that was discovered in Antelope Springs, Utah, in 1968, that dates back to the Cambrian which is about 600 million years ago.

LL: What about the earliest skeletal remains of anatomically modern humans?

MC: The earliest skeleton we have in forbidden archaeology is a human skeleton that was discovered in a coalfield in Macoupin County, Illinois, in 1862, and reported in a magazine called *The Geologist*, a standard journal. It comes from the Carboniferous period and could be about 300 million years old. So these are quite extraordinary finds. Now, one thing that happens, if things do not fit the current paradigm, is sometimes they tend not to be preserved. If you have something that fits the current ideas about human origins in antiquity, then it's kept very carefully by the establishment.

LL: It's fussed over, it's published, you read about it...

MC: Right. You hear about it. It's put on display at the museum, you know. They make videos about it and you see them on *National Geographic* specials and things of that sort. If something doesn't fit the current paradigm, then you don't hear about it. It doesn't get preserved, and it's very difficult to track down. I would say that people like yourself, media people of all kinds have a duty to look a little bit deeper. It's as if you went to a politician and they were trying to cover something up and you just accepted their story, didn't check on it, didn't dig for the facts. So I think a lot more of that work has to go on. We can't put as much faith as

we do in people just because they occupy a university position or have a Ph.D. behind their name.

LL: I'm in total alignment with you on that point, for sure. Michael, you were just stating a very different view of entertaining alternative theories. You're saying it's one's duty, one's intellectual duty, one's civic duty, that it's really a must to go digging and find out if there are any hidden points of view, any cover-ups, any alternatives—you know, what is the motivation behind the current and reigning paradigm? I've heard so many people express the idea that if you're silly enough to look at ideas that are not endorsed by the establishment, then you're being duped or you're just really being silly and wasting your time. Why this divergent view on participating or at least being willing to entertain alternative ideas, do you suppose?

MC: Well, I think what we have to do is take the same attitude towards science that we do towards politics. For example, if there is some allegation about some political misdeed, we don't just accept and we don't just go to the politician and accept his statement.

LL: Give me your propaganda, in other words, right?

MC: Right. So I think that sort of attitude is now too prevalent. I think we have to become a little more...

LL: Sceptical?

MC: Sceptical. A little more independent in the way that we look at these things, and sometimes it takes an outsider to really look into a question. People want some independent verification so you can't always go to the experts and take their opinion in their own field. You need outside people to go in, dig around a little bit and look, and that's basically what we've done with our book. We have gone in there without any preconceptions and

dug around, and we've found quite a bit to show that we're not getting an objective look at the past. We're not being told the whole truth. We're not being given all the facts, so in *Forbidden Archeology* we just try to provide all the facts and let people make up their own minds about these things.

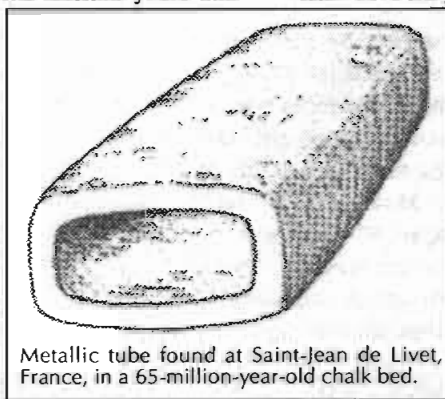
LL: What are your and your co-author Richard Thompson's backgrounds in the field?

MC: We don't have backgrounds in this field other than the research that we've done.

LL: How easy was it to do the research? How accessible were some of these reports? How did you know where to go digging if they're not well-publicised or well-known?

MC: Well, it was like a detective story. You go back in time. You look farther and farther back into the records and you start finding things. Then you have to trace out obscure little footnotes. It's like a cover-up. It's really like a cover-up. You have to really dig for it. We had to get journals, obscure journals, and reports from all over the world, some dating back hundreds of years, and we had to translate them from German and French and Spanish and Russian and whatever languages they happened to be in, so it took about eight years. It took eight years of very painstaking work to gather this information which we then put into this book. It's all thoroughly documented so every reference is footnoted. It's got a complete bibliography.

LL: They don't even have to take your word for it. You provided them the paper trail by which they can go back and verify the evidence that you provide. Obviously, even in a thousand pages, you couldn't fit in everything. What was your criterion by which you chose what to include in your documentation and your book?



Metallic tube found at Saint-Jean de Livet, France, in a 65-million-year-old chalk bed.

MC: Well, we wanted to choose things for which we had the most solid evidence in terms of documentation and scientific testimony. Now, one thing we learned is that this process of 'knowledge filtration', which we like to call it, is ongoing. It's happening even today. We were very lucky to run into some modern researchers who had been victims of this suppression, and they were kind enough to give us some information about how the system actually works.

LL: How does the system actually work?

MC: Well, there is money involved. There are positions involved. There's opportunity for publication involved. And there are very small and powerful groups of people that control these positions. If you want to become a professor at a university, you need recommendations. If you want your articles to be published in scientific journals, they have to pass what is called 'anonymous peer review'.

LL: People can comment, but you don't even know who they are?

MC: Yeah, you don't know who they are, and in one sense you could say that a dominant group could very easily use that to screen out information that it doesn't want to reach the wider community, let alone the public.

LL: Is there dissent in academia for this kind of set-up that is so easily abused, or that is so useful to maintaining the status quo, not really expanding the field in terms of its outlook?

MC: Yes, there is. From time to time I tune in through my computer to the Internet...

LL: So do I.

MC: And there are discussion groups that discuss some of the shortcomings of the current system, and there are people that object to it, but it's still pretty much in place.

LL: What are some of these Internet groups? Are they art groups? Are they libraries? I mean, what are some of these places where you can find some of this information? We have a lot of Internet users among our listener-base.

MC: Well, the one that I found—I can't remember its exact name, but it was really odd because it was a discussion about employment opportunities. That was what the discussion group was technically about—about academic positions and how to apply for them, what jobs were available—but there were all kinds of discussions about the system and how it operated, in that particular discussion group.

LL: Right, no sense talking about the positions unless you figure out how they work.

MC: Right. Because for every academic position that opens up, there are usually hundreds of applicants.

LL: Oh, I see, so you're encouraged just by the competition to conform. Right. You're going to do everything you can if you're really serious about that position.

MC: You have real powerful people in these fields who control position, publication and research money, and if you want to get along you have to go along. That's basically how the system works. I've had personal discussions with people who have been victims of that system, who have been denied publication, who have been denied position, who have been denied research money.

LL: What kind of heresy were they wanting to report?

MC: It was because of their views. One case which we discuss in the book is the case of Virginia Steen-McIntyre, a geologist

who worked for the US Geological Survey. She and a couple of other geologists dated a site at Hueyatlaco, Mexico, in the 1970s, where some very advanced stone tools were found—stone tools that could only have been made by anatomically modern humans. They dated the site by the uranium series method and other methods to about 300,000 years. Now, according to current doctrine, you don't have human beings coming into North America until 12,000 years ago, although some people are now willing to extend it to 25,000 or 30,000, but the standard conservative doctrine is 12,000 years. These very, very advanced stone tools, at 300,000 years in Mexico, are extremely anomalous: there shouldn't have been any human beings of that type around until about 100,000 years ago. As a matter of fact, stone tools of the type that were found there don't show up in Europe until about 40,000 years ago, so the fact that they are in Mexico—where human beings shouldn't have been at all—and at 300,000 years—which is 250,000 years earlier than any other such stone tools found...

LL: That creates a problem, doesn't it?

MC: These researchers produced a report, but they couldn't get it published. Nobody would publish it.

LL: But what happened to the tools? Where are the tools today?

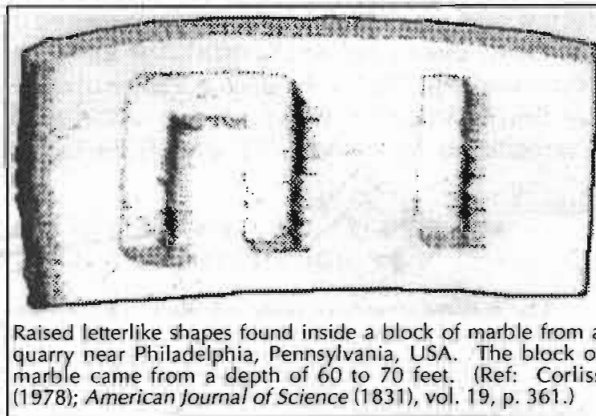
MC: They're stored away in some museum. These were found fairly recently, so you can still find them. We tried to get permission to get photographs of those tools to put in our book, *Forbidden Archeology*, but we were told we would be given permission to print those pictures only if we gave the tools a date of less than 25,000 years; and if we were even going to mention that they were 300,000 years old, as these geologists reported, we could not have permission.

LL: You know, with all of this information, who's to say how to interpret it? Michael, tell me about another couple of finds, and then I'd like to ask you, isn't all this like a world heritage, and who gets to say what about it? What are some of the restrictions? What are the various methods of dating? How do we know how certain dates are assigned? What are the various methods of assigning dates? I know a lot of it has to do with the strata in which something is found, but tell me some more of these discoveries and we'll talk more about the issues surrounding them.

MC: Well, one interesting discovery was the carved shell in the Red Crag formation in England. Now this is a late Pleistocene formation, about two million years old, and Henry Stopes, a Fellow of the Geological Society of England, found this shell. It's got a human face carved in it, and according to modern views you wouldn't expect artwork of this type in Europe until about 40,000 years ago at the earliest, so at two to three million years it's quite anomalous. It was discovered in the 19th century.

LL: Okay. What's another anomalous find?

MC: Going back to North America and to more recent times where we have some really good documentation of how evidence can be suppressed, we have a case of a Dr Lee who found, in a glacial formation at a place called Sheguiandah on Manitoulin Island in the Great Lakes in Canada, stone tools that are about 70,000 years old. Now, as I said, the current idea is that you don't have human beings in North America until about 12,000 years ago. He was working with the National Museum of Canada at the time that he made these discoveries. He had a geologist come in to look at the site and confirm his dating view of it, but he got



Raised letterlike shapes found inside a block of marble from a quarry near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA. The block of marble came from a depth of 60 to 70 feet. (Ref: Corliss (1978); *American Journal of Science* (1831), vol. 19, p. 361.)

fired from his job, they wouldn't publish the report, and he couldn't get another job for years. He was extremely upset by that, and all his stone tools that he found were just taken and stored away somewhere out of his control by the museum.

LL: That's how they bury it?

MC: They buried it.

LL: Michael, you mostly include in your book those artefacts that can be well-documented and which required you to go on a detective hunt through the scientific literature, but you were mentioning that some of the less-well-documented finds come from coalminers because they're down there digging in very ancient strata. For example, I've even heard of people who are breaking up coal to put into their stoves, and out pop gold chains and metal vases and just incredible things. Tell me some of the stories of what's been found in some of these very ancient coal-strata, and things that have been found by miners.

MC: Well, here are some of the ones that we discuss in the book, *Forbidden Archeology*. In 1897, the *Daily News* of Omaha, Nebraska, carried an article, titled "Carved Stone Buried in Mine". Now, this was about a piece of rock that was about two feet by one foot, and the rock was carved into the shape of diamonds. It had marks on it dividing the surface into diamonds, and in the centre of each diamond there was an engraving of a human face, a fairly old person. The question is, how did it get down there? This was a mine dug deep into the ground, 130 feet deep. The miners said the earth had not been disturbed—and coalminers are very good at this because their life depends on it. If they're digging somewhere and they can see that the coal has been disturbed, that maybe there was some shaft there previously that had been filled in, they watch out for that like anything because they know they could be buried in a landslide or caught underground, so they're no dummies. That coal in that part, near Omaha, Nebraska, was about 300 million years old, so that's really amazing. Now, where is that object? We tried to track it down, and we could not find it. It was reported in the newspapers. We found a lot of literature about it, but because it's so far out of what modern scholarship would accept, it wasn't put in a museum anywhere. Probably one of the coalminers just kept it, and then when he died it went on to some relative somewhere, and maybe they threw it out.

LL: Or maybe it's sitting in an attic, and nobody knows its true story.

MC: Right. If anybody out there has stories like that, we'd like to hear about them.

LL: Michael, I've heard additionally that there are stone walls buried 150 feet. I know there are examples of that in Texas and California, I believe. Did you come across such huge artefacts as buried stone walls?

MC: We have come across reports of such things. We do mention them in our book. There's one such case, from Heavener, Oklahoma, where we have a report from a coalminer that in the year 1928 he was working in this mine at a depth of two miles. The way these mines were set up, they had different chambers, and each day they would blast out another chamber. So, one morning they blasted out some coal and the miners saw at the end of the room, they call it, a wall of concrete blocks that were very smooth and polished; it was a wall, built down there. They told

the mining officers about it, and the officers just put the men out of that mine, sent them to another mine and filled up that part of the mine.

LL: Does that seem to be standard procedure when such things are found?

MC: Well, there does seem to be a pattern. One thing that might happen is that some of these cases may be reopened and re-investigated, you know, by people with more open minds.

LL: Doesn't it make you wonder that if the Earth were transparent for a day and we could actually see all of the dinosaur bones, all of the unusual artefacts, all the human remains, all the footprints, all the things that are buried in the Earth from long, long ago, what do you think we would see, Michael? In what abundance?

MC: Well, I think what we would find is a picture of all kinds of creatures, humans and otherwise, going back for long, long, long periods of time. Now, of course, one problem is that just seeing isn't enough, because a lot of the seeing goes on in our own

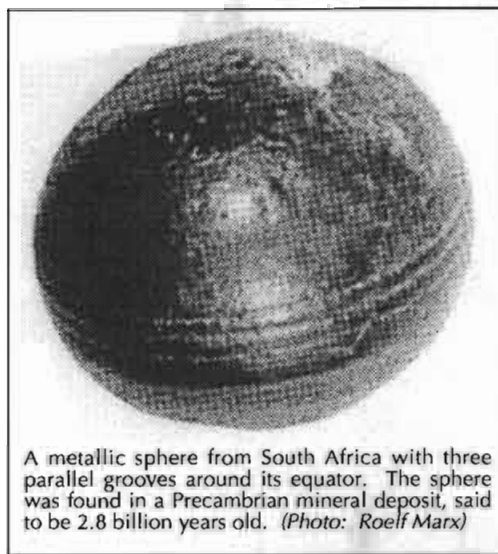
minds, and you can always explain something away. What we found is that there's a double standard in the treatment of evidence. If something goes along with the current ideas, then...

LL: No problem, right?

MC: No problem. If it goes against the current ideas, then you can immediately pick out all kinds of flaws because, with this kind of evidence that you dig up out of the ground, even in the best of circumstances you can always get some counter-explanation. At the very least, you could just say it was a very elaborate hoax or a fraud...

LL: Right, that someone put it in there, or...

MC: Right. But see, the problem is that if you are going to do that, and you apply the same standard to the things that



A metallic sphere from South Africa with three parallel grooves around its equator. The sphere was found in a Precambrian mineral deposit, said to be 2.8 billion years old. (Photo: Roelf Marx)

you now find in the museums, then you'd have to throw them out, too. For example, if you were to find an anatomically-modern human skeleton in some coal near the surface, if it actually belonged in the coal it would be 200 million years old; but if someone says it's close to the surface so it must be recent, well... But then, most of the archaeological discoveries that we have—like Lucy, the most famous specimen of *Australopithecus*, found by Donald Johanson in Ethiopia in the 1970s—were found on the surface, too. As a matter of fact, most of the Java Man discoveries in Java were found on the surface. They weren't found buried under the ground.

LL: I've heard of gold chains dropping out of lumps of coal. I found these documented in certain books on anomalies of every description. Can you tell me some stories on that?

MC: Well, they are documented in several books including our own. The one very particularly interesting case took place in 1891, and is recorded in *The Morrisonville Times* newspaper from Illinois. It was actually the wife of the publisher of the paper, you know. Mrs Culp was breaking coal to put into her stove when she found a small gold chain, a very intricately-worked gold chain, in a lump of coal. As a matter of fact, it was so tightly embedded in the coal that two pieces of coal were hanging off each end of it, like a little pendulum, after she broke the piece. Now, what we did was actually verify that the newspaper did have a copy of that article describing that find because we'd heard about it, but we wanted to check with the newspaper itself—and they sent us a

copy of the article. We also checked with the Geological Survey of the State of Illinois about the age of the coal in which that piece of gold chain was found.

LL: What happened to the gold chain? How were you able to document it? It was a story of what someone found in a piece of coal. Other than looking at stories that were written at the time, did you ever find any of these, or is somebody wearing the chain around their neck thinking it's just a regular antique?

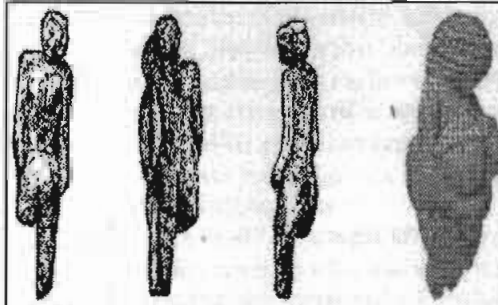
MC: Well, we tried to track down that gold chain—about 300 million years old—that was reported in a newspaper. What we found out was that the owner had died in 1959, and the chain had been passed on to one of her relatives after her death, but we could not track it down any farther than that. Now, that's why we put that case in our appendix of extreme anomalies in that we could not completely document it. The main body of the book is composed of things that are a little less spectacular but much better documented. The artefacts are still there—most of them in museums—and you can see them.

LL: Tom, in San Luis Obispo, thanks for joining us.

Tom: Howdy. I have some questions on the grooved metallic spheres which were discovered, and I'd like to know how many were discovered, their composition, the method of dating, and whether the dating was peer-reviewed.

MC: Okay. A lot of questions there, but I'll try to answer as many of them as I can. The grooved spheres were found near Ottosdal in South Africa. Now, they have been found for a long time. Hundreds of them have been found. Not all of them have the parallel grooves going around the equator. These have not been reported in scientific journals, and that's why we include this particular case in an appendix in the book. The spheres are kept in a museum in Klerksdorp, South Africa. We corresponded with Roelf Marx, the curator of the museum there, who told us they are a complete mystery to him. He said they look like they're man-made. These are his exact words, that they look man-made, yet at that time in the Earth's history when they came to rest in this rock, no intelligent life existed. Now, that's his assumption, so you see how this works. He said they look like they're man-made, but

they *couldn't* be man-made because "I know that no human, not any kind of life existed at that particular time." Now, these were found in a pyrophyllite formation, a mineral that has been dated at 2.8 billion years there. He provided that information from a Professor Bisschoff, the professor of geology at a university there, the University of Potchefstroom. These spheres are said to be made of limonite, a kind of iron ore, but it's a very unusual kind of limonite because they are extremely hard. They can't even be scratched with a steel point, which means that in terms of mineral hardness they're *extremely* hard. Usually just a limonite ore would be very soft, and these are extremely, extremely hard, so they're very mysterious. Now, as far as peer review goes, no, because they're not described in any scientific journal as such. I don't think you could find any current scholar who would be willing to consider these as made by a human, although they say they appear to be made by humans.



Figurine from a well at Nampa, Idaho, USA. This object is of Plio-Pleistocene age, about two million years old.

LL: One last parting shot. A partial shoe-sole-print was found in modern Triassic rock, dating to about 250 million years ago. This one had the well-defined thread through which the sole of the shoe was sewn, imprinted right there into the rock. How extraordinary! How can you miss something like that when you can see

the stitching around the sole and when the rock is dated to the Triassic? Where is that rock, by the way...?

MC: Well, it's another one of these cases of a cover-up. Again, that's one more case of a cover-up where you had something—a wonderful piece of evidence that was shown to scientists. The person who discovered this took it to New York. He took it to Columbia University. He showed it to some of the leading people there at the American Museum of Natural History and turned it over to them. We wrote to the American Museum of Natural History and they had no information about it. They said that the report is not in their files.

LL: Once again, don't believe everything you hear. Let's check out the alternatives. I think it is a very interesting process, a very important process, and it's certainly one that is going to expand our paradigm. Thank you for joining me in that journey yet once again.

I'm Laura Lee.

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